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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/731,246	12/10/2003	Seok-Kyu Lee	053933-5059	5700

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EXAMINER

PATEL, ISHWARBHAI B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2841

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/731,246

Applicant(s)

LEE ET AL.

Examiner

Ishwar (I. B.) Patel

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 May 2006.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-16 and 23-25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 17-20 and 22 is/are rejected.
7) ☒ Claim(s) 21 is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the amendment filed on May 12, 2006.

Claim Interpretations

2. Amended claim 17 with the limitation "a power layer copper foil formed on the cured capacitor paste and including a dry film pattern that is laminated on the power layer copper foil and is etched by use of an etching mask to partition the power layer copper foil" is not clear. The limitation as recited, "including a dry film pattern that is laminated on the power layer copper foil and is etched by sue of an etching mask to partition the power layer copper foil," does not make it clear whether the dry film is present in the final product or not.

A close study of the disclosure describing the manufacturing process with reference to figure 7c and 7d on page 23 of specification, is reciting providing a power layer copper foil 106a on capacitor paste layer 105a (figure 7c). The next figure 7d shows the partitioned power layer. The description on page 24, describes laminating the dry film for partitioning the power layer, but does not show its presence in the final product. It implies that the dry film is used in the process of partitioning the power layer. Based on the study, the examiner considered, as a person of ordinary skill in the art would have considered, the limitation of dry film lamination and etching are the process limitation in the product claim.

A prior art rejection applied accordingly.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kusagaya (US Patent Application Publication Number 2003/0063453) in view of Kuwako (US Patent No. 6,693,793).

Regarding claim 17, Kusagaya in figure 7, discloses a printed circuit board with embedded capacitors, comprising: an inner layer of a multi-layered printed circuit board having a copper clad laminate adhered thereon by means of an adhesive (L4, as shown in detail in figure 1, described at paragraph 0071 in detail); a ground layer copper foil (L2, shown in detail in figure 1), formed at a top and a bottom of the -inner layer; a polymer capacitor paste (polymer film 16) having a predetermined thickness formed on the ground layer copper foil, a power layer (L3, as shown in detail in figure 1) copper foil formed on the capacitor paste (16) and partitioned (see figure), an insulation layer attached copper film (48) formed on the power layer copper foil (14 and 48, figure 5); a blind via-hole (18) and a through-hole (20) formed at predetermined portions of the insulation layer-attached copper film; and plated layers of the blind via-hole and the through-hole for layer connection of the printed circuit board.

Kusagaya does not disclose the ground layer copper foil with roughened surface and the polymer film made of capacitor paste having high dielectric constant.

Kuwako, in figure 1, discloses a doubled sided copper clad laminate for capacitor layer formation with roughened (14) surface for better adhesion, column 5, line 35-50.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to provide the circuit board of Kusagaya with the ground layer copper foil with roughened surface, as taught by Kuwako, in order to have better adhesion.

Regarding the polymer film made of paste having high dielectric constant. Kusagaya discloses the polymer film (16) provided between the ground layer and power layer made of polyimide film, but is silent about the dielectric constant of the polymer film. However, Kusagaya further states that the combination of ground layer, polymer layer and power layer, is used as a condenser body, page 2, paragraph 0028. It is known (scientifically) in the art that the capacity (capacitance) of the condenser will depend upon the dielectric constant of the polymer (insulation) between the conductive layers (power and ground layers). Further, it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to provide the circuit board of Kusagaya with the polymer layer between the ground layer and the power layer formed of high dielectric constant, in order to have the desired capacitor (condenser) capacity.

Regarding the limitation “a dry film pattern that is laminated on the power layer copper foil and is etched by use of an etching mask,” it is a process limitation in a product claim. Such a process limitation defines the claimed invention over the prior art to the degree that it defines the product itself. A process limitation cannot serve to patentably distinguish the product over the prior art, in the case that the product is same as, or obvious over the prior art. See Product-by-Process in MPEP § 2113 and 2173.05(p) and *In re Thorpe*, 777 F.2d 695, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985). Kusagaya discloses the structure. Therefore, Kusagaya meets the limitations.

Regarding claim 18, the modified circuit board of Kusagaya further discloses the insulation layer-attached copper film is a resin-coated copper foil (14-48, figure 6).

Regarding claim 19, the modified circuit board of Kusagaya further discloses the surface of the ground layer copper foil is roughened at a thickness of 1-2 μm to increase a bonding force between the ground layer copper foil and the capacitor paste (Kuwako, claim 4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. Claims 20 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the modified circuit board of Kusagaya as applied to claim 17 above, and further in view of Bruno (US Patent No. 5,155,072).

Regarding claim 20, the combination of Kusagaya and Kuwako discloses all the features of the claimed invention as applied to claim 17 above, but does not disclose the capacitor mixture is in a mixed composite form of BaTiO₃ ceramic powders having high-dielectric constant of 1000-10,000 and polyimide.

Bruno discloses a high dielectric composition having BaTiO₃ with a dielectric constant of at least 10,000 for electric device such as capacitors. Further, it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 227 F.2d 197, 125 USPQ 416 (CCPA 1960).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to provide the modified circuit board of Kusagaya with the capacitor paste in a mixed composite form of BaTiO₃ ceramic powders having high-dielectric constant of 1000-10,000 and polyimide, as taught by Bruno, in order to have the desired capacitance value.

Regarding claim 22, the modified circuit board of Kusagaya discloses all the features of the claimed invention as applied to claim 17 above, but does not disclose the capacitor paste is coated at a thickness of 8-25 μm . However, it is scientifically known in the art that the capacitance of a capacitor will depend upon the dielectric constant and the thickness of the insulating layer between the two conductive layer and the desired value can be obtain by a specific combination of the dielectric constant and thickness of

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the insulating layer. Further, it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to provide the modified circuit board of Kusagaya with the capacitor paste coated with a thickness of 8-25 μm , in order to have desired capacitance value.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claim 21 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed May 12, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the references taken individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest the novel combination of features recited in the claims. Applicant specifically argues about the independent claim 17 that Kusagaya and Kuwako, whether taken individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest the claimed combination

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including at least a recited feature of "a polymer capacitor paste having high-dielectric constant," and a recited feature of power layer copper foil . . . including a dry film pattern that is laminated on the power layer copper foil and is etched by use of an etching mask to partition the power layer copper foil."

These arguments are not found to be persuasive. As applied to the claim rejection, the primary reference of Kusagaya discloses a polymer layer between the power and ground layer, as described on page 2, paragraph 0028, that combination of power / ground layer with insulation layer inbetween work as a condenser body. It is known scientifically and also as disclosed by Kuwako that the capacity of the condenser / capacitor depends primary on the shape and size of the capacitor layers and the dielectric constant of the insulating material (column 1, line 58-60). Therefore, it is obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to change the dielectric constant of the capacitor paste to the desired value.

Regarding the argument about the dry film layer laminated on the power layer to partition the power layer by etching, as explained in the claim interpretation, it is considered as a process limitation in a product claim. Such a process limitation defines the claimed invention over the prior art to the degree that it defines the product itself. A process limitation cannot serve to patentably distinguish the product over the prior art, in the case that the product is same as, or obvious over the prior art. See *Product-by-Process* in MPEP § 2113 and 2173.05(p) and *In re Thorpe*, 777 F.2d 695, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985). Kusagaya discloses the structure. Therefore, Kusagaya

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meets the limitations. Further, the use of such dry film for etching is old and known in the art.

Applicant further argues that to establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art.

Regarding the above argument the examiner recognizes that references cannot arbitrarily combined and there must be some reason why one skilled in the art would be motivated to make the proposed combination of primary and secondary references. However, there is no requirement that a motivation to make the modification be expressly articulated. The test for combining references is what the combination of disclosures taken, as a whole would suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art. *In re McLaughlin*, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971). In this case the primary reference the insulating polymer layer between the power and ground layer to be used as a condenser body (capacitor) and the secondary reference recites the capacity of the condenser body can be changed by changing the dielectric constant of the insulating material. A person of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to use the polymer layer with the desired dielectric constant for the specific requirement.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Tsai (US Patent No. 5,843,806) recites use of dry film layer for etching.

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9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) / new explanation of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ishwar (I. B.) Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272 1933. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30 - 5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamand Cuneo can be reached on (571) 272 1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

IBP
July 23, 2006


ISHWAR PATEL
PRIMARY EXAMINER